

Appl. No. 10/773,956

Amdt. dated December 4, 2007

Reply to Office action of September 10, 2007

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Dear Sir,

In response to your Office action of September 10, 2007, the Applicant's reply is as follows:

1. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

In view of the examiner's comments on the claims rejection, Claim 1 is amended by to specify the subject invention refers to an automatic multimedia recording and reproduction system and the subject invention comprises two automatic vending machines, namely, (i) an automatic vending machine incorporating the controlling and processing system, the payment handling system, the data storage system, the sound and image recording system, the reproduction and output system and the power supply system, and (ii) a separate automatic vending machine comprising a system for supplying specific recording discs. The amended claims should eliminate the confusion and clearly specify the scope of protection.

Moreover, Claims 2 and 3 are also amended to clearly specify the features are related to the automatic vending machine incorporating the controlling and processing system, the payment handling system, the data storage system, the sound and image recording system, the reproduction and output system and the power supply system. Besides, the amended claims clarify how the automatic vending machine can be adapted to accept different methods of payment and new forms of electronic payment and new means of data recording and reproduction. The parts or components in the original Claims 2 and 3 refer to the physical features and the constructions of the system.

2. Rejection under 35 U.S.C 103(a)

In comparison with US2003/0086123 ("the Reference") which discloses a method of providing souvenir images to event site customers by capturing and reproducing the images associated with an event site location, there are differences between the Reference and the present invention as follows:

a. The most significant difference is in that the camera 111 is part of the block 212 and can only automatically take several photos of a customer seated on a seat on the stands. In other words, a customer seated on the stands is being pictured without noticing it. Therefore, the method

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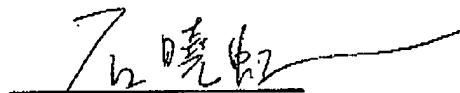
disclosed in the Reference do not allow customers to pose in front of the camera and the photos can only show an individual customer. In contrast, the present invention is capable of recording and reproducing sound and moving images, live video as well as still images. Customers are very free to pose, to act and to play with their friends in front of the video camera inside the booth shaped automatic vending machine.

- b. Photos taken by the method disclosed in the Reference can only be retrieved by inputting and verifying details of the seat information of an individual customer for security purpose. Therefore, reproducing the photos becomes very inconvenient.
- c. As the method disclosed in the Reference does not comprise a sound recording system and the camera is inaccessible from the customers, customers cannot pose together and their reminiscences of happy moments cannot be recorded audio-visually at real time.

From above analysis, it can be seen that there are significant differences between the subject invention and the Reference. It is impossible to derive the features in the subject application from the Reference. Therefore, please kindly waive the obviousness rejections and approve the subject application.

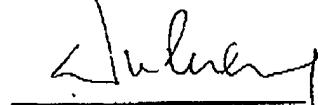
The Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

By Applicant:



Name: SHEK HIU HUNG SEAN

By Applicant:



Name: CHENG WAI SHUN WILSON